



Vol. 37 No. 4

ST. LOUIS ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT **ESPRIT**

GATEWAY TO EXCELLENCE

April 2000

In this issue...

Power plant
... page 5

**Emerging
leaders**
... page 6

RM tips
... page 7

**Lewis new
manager**
... page 8

Lake events
... page 9

Engineer Week
... page 12

DE Visits Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor Project

An innovative solution to a major navigation and flood control concern

By Terrie Hatfield, PA

At a bend in the Mississippi River, south of Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and above Cairo, Illinois, the river flows in a broad sweeping reverse curve. This large meander loop has created an agriculturally rich 10,000-acre peninsula-like land mass known as Dry Bayou-Thompson Bend, located just above the Mississippi River's confluence with the Ohio River. To the untrained eye, this bend wouldn't appear to present any major problems, but over time, the Dry Bayou-



Thompson Bend during flood of 1995.



Col. Morrow and Lester Goodin, or is that Mark Twain, standing in the same spot as pictured above

Thompson Bend reach of the Mississippi has experienced such severe and damaging erosion that, during and after flooding, the river has begun to scour and cut a new channel across the peninsula in an attempt to change its course. Now, this change has yet to cause the mighty river to go off in a different direction, but, if the river were left alone and allowed to have its way and continue this cut-off formation, navigation would become impossible along this 17-mile reach

(Continued on page 8)



Commander's Perspective



COL Michael R. Morrow

"I was the guest of our own Chuck Rhoads and his wife at their antique engine club's monthly gathering."

It was a cold, drizzly day last month that I thought I had died and gone to heaven. Here I was wandering through old dilapidated barns on a farm in Missouri looking at old tractors and trucks. In every corner there was another tractor or engine just sitting, covered in dust and waiting for someone to apply some elbow grease and tender loving care. The more I looked the more I saw, and each turn and twist brought about new and exciting wonders of days gone by. Sounds like a dream? Well, it wasn't. I was the guest of our own Chuck Rhoads and his wife at their antique engine club's monthly gathering.

For those of you who know Chuck, you are well aware of his hobby, restoring antique cars, trucks and yes, tractors. One of Chuck's favorite toys is a 1922 Hug Model T, S/N 42, "Special Speed Truck". This truck was built in 1922 by the Hug Co. of Highland, Illinois, and is equipped with a gravity dump bed designed for hauling wet concrete. Chuck purchased the truck from its original 82-year-old owner and lovingly restored it from the frame up from 1980 to 1983. The history and story of this amazing restoration was chronicled in an article in the December 1996 issue of the "Wheels of Time" magazine.

Chuck has more "projects" lined up waiting for his attention than he has time. It was clearly evident to me that he truly loves his hobby and is extremely knowledgeable. It was fun to listen to the club members inquiring about the whereabouts of old, obscure parts needed to finish a project. Before the meeting we watched as a club members hand started an ancient steam tractor. Just as I thought it couldn't get any better, someone drove in with a 1940's era John Deere Model A.

Chuck's club will be putting on an Antique Gas Engines and Tractor show this July 14, 15 and 16 at the St. Peters, Missouri, Olde Towne Park. Admission is free and there will be crafts, games and rides. If you are interested in watching Chuck enjoy his hobby, stop out and see him. If you don't have a hobby and are wondering if you should have one, get expert advice, ask your spouse.



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Louis District

ESPRIT is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of AR 360-81. It is published monthly, by contract, in 1450 copies, by the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis. Views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

District Commander.....Michael R. Morrow

Chief, Public Affairs.....Jennifer Watkins

Editor.....Terrie Hatfield

Address mail to: U.S. Army Engineer District, St. Louis,
ATTN: CEMVS - PA, 1222 Spruce, St. Louis, MO 63103-2833.
Phone: (314) 331-8000.

:



News Briefs

Carlyle Lake:

Partnership C-2000

The Carlyle Lake Association was formed after high water at Carlyle Lake in 1995, reaching 12 feet above normal. This group has members of interested people who use the lake for both recreation and financial gain. They identified a need and concern to work on a watershed plan for the area.

It was their foresight that brought about an application and eventual approval of the Ecosystem Partnership C-2000 Program in September 1996 with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. It originally included only Carlyle Lake, but expanded to include the approximately 1,064,320 acres between Carlyle Lake and Lake Shelbyville, which includes drainage in parts of six counties.

The goals of the watershed plan include minimizing flooding, protecting and enhancing natural resources, improving the environment, controlling siltation and erosion, improving water quality, promoting wildlife habitat, enhancing recreation and improving the

ability to work closely with all state and federal agencies.

In the draft watershed plan erosion and siltation amounts were calculated and the Corps completed a siltation study of Carlyle Lake in FY 1999. The study results should be released in FY 2000. The Watershed Plan was finalized and submitted to IDNR in March.

One of the C-2000 projects submitted for FY 2000, which are cost-shared with IDNR, is to have a siltation study done between the lakes. Since 1996, the Carlyle Lake Ecosystem Partnership has received \$439,243 from IDNR, other State agencies and private owners, in dollars or in-kind services.

The project included placement of stop logs, cycling the gates, performing preventive maintenance to motors and gauges and greasing the bearings, bushings and gears.

The gates are cycled periodically to allow for inspection and preventive maintenance.



Dam maintenance

The Carlyle Lake Project temporarily closed the main dam structure during the weeks of March 13 through March 24 in order to cycle the main gates for preventative maintenance. A Service Base crane and operator, along with lake staff and Federal Bureau of Prison inmates performed the work.

Earth event

On Friday, April 28th, more than 1,500 students from area schools will be gathering at the Dam West Recreation Area to participate in the third annual Celebrate the Earth Event. This event is held to encourage children to make wise decisions on issues concerning the environment.

(Continued on page 4)



St. Louis District Employee of the Month

The Employee of the Month for April is Ms. Diane Stratton of Wappapello Lake.

As the resident "expert" on the National Recreation Reservation System, Diane has spent a lot of time on the road educating Corps brethren across the nation in its use. Diane also organized the second "Partnering for Safety" meeting with state agencies and the Rock Island and Kansas City Districts. The meeting identified several potential opportunities for combining resources to achieve goals common to the several agencies participating.

Congratulations to Diane Stratton, April's Employee of the Month.



News Briefs (cont.)

Professionals who specialize in environmental topics will present programs on topics such as wildlife, wetlands, prairies, science, environment and conservation.

NAGPRA meeting

Bob Wilkins, Project Manager, and Dave Baum, Park Ranger, attended the NAGPRA coordination meeting at Rend Lake. They presented seven proposed sites on the project that met the requirements for the Native American reburial of remains.

Rend Lake:

Bike trail

Ground was broken as part of the first phase of the Rend Lake Bike Trail. The Wayne Fitzgerrel State Park section was begun with placement of low water crossings and culverts. When completed, this section will connect to the trail at the Rend Lake College.

NAGPRA meeting

Rend Lake hosted a St. Louis District Native American Graves Repatriations Act coordination meeting at the Rend Lake Resort conference center. The meeting was organized by Roberta Hayworth and Chris Pulliam of CEMVS-ED-Z. The attendees included Jennifer Watkins (DX), Jim Lynch (CO-TO), Suzanne Harris (PM-EA), Bob Wilkins & Doug Bauer from Carlyle Lake, Mike Skinner from Lake Shelbyville, and Phil Jenkins, Andrea Lewis, and Kevin Curran from Rend Lake. Representatives from six Native American nations were also in atten-

dance. The participants were given a tour of the lake and visited potential gravesites for repatriation. For the first time in Corps history, plans were made for the repatriation of Indian remains and reclassification of Corps property.

Lake Shelbyville:

Parker retires

Jerry Parker retired at the end of February after 28 1/2 years of government service, most of it with the Corps.

Wappapello Lake:

Drag Boat Race

The 12th Annual National Drag Boat Race will be held on May 20-21 at the Redman Creek Recreation Area from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day. Last year about 31,000 spectators attended.



Indian village

On May 6-7, an Intertribal Living Indian Village will set up at the Greenville Recreation Area about two miles south of Greenville, Missouri, on U.S. Highway 67. You'll be able to walk through a living Indian village, see hand made arts and crafts, witness live dancing and craft demonstrations. Step back in time and commune with Native Americans as they lived hundreds of years ago. Entry is free.

Safety award

Wappapello Lake has been nominated for the National Water Safety Award. Last year the lake received the Region 6 Award for promoting the Ranger Willie B. Safe program, which is now recognized nationally. Park Rangers Andrew Jefferson and John Daves will attend the National Safe Boating and Water Safety Summit in Las Vegas to accept for the lake if it wins.

Visitor center

The Bill Emerson Memorial Visitor Center is scheduled to re-open May 6. The center will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through May 21. The center will be open daily starting May 26. Hours will be 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and 10 to 9 Fridays and Saturdays.

* * *

Districts combine for Boat Show

More than 10,000 people enjoyed the opportunity to obtain information about the Corps at our booth during the 2000 St. Louis Boat & Sport Show at the America's Center.

This year, to better serve our customers and reduce costs, we, Kansas City and Little Rock Districts combined in one booth. Naturally, the St. Louis District's robot boat, Corkey, was one of the highlights of the show.



Correctional officers tour Carlyle Lake

By Norma Hall, Carlyle Ranger

After four years, countless hours and a signed Memorandum of Agreement and Labor Plan between the Carlyle Lake Project and the Greenville Correctional Institution of Greenville, Illinois, federal inmates were sent to the project on March 16, 1998, to accomplish extensive unfunded projects and labor intensive work.

On March 1, this year, to familiarize another new Camp Administrator, Mr. Frank Quintana, with this program, both he and the Warden, Mr. Charles Gilkey, toured the project and saw many projects the inmates have completed.

Carlyle Lake expressed the need to have at least 10 inmates at all times to cover administrative costs of the program. For additional savings to the government, Charlie Johnson, a carpenter who was injured on the job, returned to duty and was assigned to Carlyle Lake to provide technical advice and to transport the inmates to and from Greenville and around the project.

Since the program began, and comparing inmate hours to the pay of maintenance workers, about \$700,000 of labor intensive unfunded maintenance work has been accomplished that would not have been possible under current funding constraints.

With the diversity of the inmates, we are able to focus on our customers' needs and enhance and preserve our public lands.

Cannon Power Plant annual maintenance

Annual maintenance of the Cannon Power Plant was completed as scheduled using employees of the Cannon Power Plant and Mark Twain Lake maintenance staff. Annual maintenance is performed to ensure the integrity of the plant and to minimize outages. Potential maintenance items are added to repair plans.

efficient of the two at design head, which is 80 feet of water. The 15.4 foot diameter turbine assembly has adjustable pitch blades to maximize the output efficiency. There are six blades. Each blade looks similar to a fan blade. This unit has a hollow shaft that allows the governor to position the blades as well as the oil system for the wicket gates. The unit



Annual maintenance is carefully coordinated between the Water Control Office, Truman Power Plant, and Consolidated Electric Cooperative. Unit #1, the Kaplan Unit, was dewatered, a work platform was added and various bushings, switches, breakers, and heat indicators were inspected and replaced if necessary. The wicket gates and other mechanical parts were also inspected.

The Cannon Power Plant houses two turbine units. The Kaplan is a 27,000 kw conventional single purpose hydraulic turbine. It is the more

turns at 128 RPM and develops 41,000 HP. This in turn drives the generator, capable of producing 27,000 kw of power.

The second turbine is the Francis unit which is both a generator and a pump which can produce 31,000 kw of electricity. This unit has a 13 foot turbine that is 6 feet tall and works basically the same as the paddle wheel on a mill. When water passes through it turning it clockwise, power is produced and the unit works the same as the Kaplan Unit.



St. Louis District emerging leaders

St. Louis District Emerging Leaders
By Julie Ziino

Recently, Colonel Michael Morrow, in an attempt to capitalize upon the Emerging Leader participants in the St. Louis District, established the Emerging Leaders Committee. The St. Louis District Emerging Leaders will lead an effort to develop and implement a means to foster and maintain an understanding of, and passion for, leadership among District employees. Working under the guidance and direction of the District Commander, the group will implement activities that foster the creation of a culture and climate throughout the District that promotes and encourages leadership at all levels of the organization.

Who are these Emerging Leader participants and how did they get to be one? St. Louis District has had five employees participate in this program throughout the years. Richard Schaumburg, Chief of Security, participated in 1992, Gary Lee, Engineering Division, participated in 1995. Patti Carr, Human Resources, participated in 1996, Julie Ziino, Rivers Project, and Andrea Lewis, Rend Lake, participated in 1997.

Headquarters established the Leadership Workshop, now referred to as the Emerging Leaders Conference, to provide individuals who exhibit leadership potential the opportunity to further develop and refine their leadership skills. Participation in the Emerging Leaders Conference (ELC) also provides this select group with a unique opportunity to observe the leadership styles of the Corps senior leadership and their peers.

Corps members at the GS-09 through GS-12, WG-09 and above, and company-grade officer level are eligible to be considered for participation in the ELC. This training is most valuable to enthusiastic, creative and committed individuals who are eager to develop their

leadership responsibilities within the Corps. The ELC program consists of a two and a half-day leadership development workshop prior to the Senior Leaders Conference. The workshop portion is followed by the integration of the ELC into the SLC. This includes participation in the SLC plenary sessions, discussion groups and social activities. The session concludes with the ELC participants developing and making a formal presentation to the Senior Leaders at the end of the SLC.

The Emerging Leaders program also sponsors Shadows, former Emerging Leaders invited back to SLC to shadow senior leaders throughout the SLC. The Shadow program gives the ELCers an excellent opportunity to observe executives "up-close and personal", and by so doing, learn more about their own leadership styles and abilities.

Since attending the emerging leaders workshop, the St. Louis District emerging leaders have been capitalized on in many capacities. Dick Schaumburg used his leadership skills to convince management to augment the District Security Office staff with two COOP students and then eventually create one permanent position. Dick also led the District in its successful Combined Federal Campaign Project this year.

Andrea Lewis, since attending ELC, had been appointed a 30 day detail as the St. Louis District Executive Liaison Officer and served on a detail as acting Project Manager at Wappapello Lake. Andrea has served as the Mississippi Valley Division ELC Chairman, has served on one HQ Task Force and has attended OLE.

Julie Ziino returned to ELC as a Shadow in 1998 and since her training has been appointed to two Headquarters

Task Force Teams and has served as District Public Affairs Officer for a 90-day detail.

Gary Lee, since attending ELC, has been appointed to a 21 day detail as St. Louis District Executive Assistant and a 60 day detail promotion as Chief, Civil Engineering and Specifications Section, Engineering Division.

Patti Carr, our emerging leader elitist, was selected to return to ELC in 1997 as a workshop coordinator, and returned again in 1998 as a Shadow. Patti was selected by Major General Anderson to be a member of the Emerging Leaders Support Staff on the Board of Directors. In this role, she participated in Division and Headquarters Board of Director meetings and assignments. Patti has attended Army Management Staff College, (Sustaining Base Leadership Management Course), and served in a temporary position in Programs, Planning and Project Management. She served as the Mississippi Valley Division ELC Secretary.

Individuals interested in participating in the Emerging Leaders Conference have the opportunity once a year to submit nominations. Individuals must prepare a narrative which describes and includes examples of the candidates accomplishments and future potential in the areas of Leadership, Management and Development.

* Leadership: Candidates demonstrate leadership potential and capabilities through their work assignments or outside work activities; exhibiting ability to effectively work with and motivate others individually or as part of a team; approaching projects and situations strategically and with vision; illustrating an understanding of the values and culture of the organization.

(Continued on next page)



Tips from the RM team

* **Management:** Candidates demonstrate management potential and capabilities in the manner in which they plan and manage work; set and achieve high goals; communicate with co-workers and management effectively to accomplish tasks and projects; are innovative in work assignments and deliver quality results in a timely manner; provide support to customers and value the importance of customer service; place the organization before self interest.

* **Development:** Candidates demonstrate the value of personal growth by pursuing "on the job" career development opportunities to improve job performance for advancement within the organization; enrolling in additional academic courses; exhibiting initiative, creativity, and innovative thinking; demonstrating through their work performance a steady increase in responsibility and career progression.

Each year, the Senior Leaders Conference takes on a new theme, building on previous years. The St. Louis Emerging Leaders Committee builds on these themes and initiatives driven by the conferences. This past year's conference, Anchoring New Approaches in the Culture, strived to create better performance through customer and productivity oriented behavior, more and better leadership, and more effective management; articulating the connections between new behaviors and organizational success; and developing means to ensure leadership development and succession.

If you would like to be considered for this year's Emerging Leaders Conference, you must apply by April 28th.

By Chris Bonucchi

This month I am addressing frequently asked questions regarding PR&Cs.

Question: I have prepared a PR&C in CEMFS and made a mistake. Who can change it and how?

Answer: (1) If the PR&C has been originated but not approved yet, the originator can make changes to the PR&C.

(2) If the PR&C has been approved by the approving official, but has not yet been certified, the approving official, and only the approving official, can make changes to the original PR&C through the regular create/update screens. This does not require an amendment to the PR&C.

(3) If the PR&C has been certified, you must create a new amendment to the PR&C to make any changes. You will need to zero out the existing line items that contain the incorrect information. If you need to make changes to the resource code, work category, work category element or work item, you will also need to create new line items.

Question: I created a PR&C (non-credit card) that I don't need.

Answer: (1) If the PR&C has been originated but not approved, the approver can delete the PR&C by selecting "D" rather than "Y" when approving the PR&C.

(2) If the PR&C has been approved, but not certified, the approving official, and only the approving official, can make a change to the PR&C (add a dollar, etc.). When approving this change to the PR&C select "D" for delete.

(3) If the PR&C has been certified, create an amendment, zeroing out the existing line items. Upon certification of this amendment, the money will be returned to the work item.

Question: I created a credit card PR&C that I don't need.

Answer: There is an option to delete unapproved misc. purchase requests. Follow this path: 3 Fin Mgt, 5 Fin Mgt, 4 Requests for Goods and Services, 3 Create Purchase Requests, 7 Other Misc Purchases, 22 Delete Unapproved Misc Purch Requests

F2 enter your PR&C number, F3, Enter, Shift F5 (look at the red line), End

Question: Why has my PR&C not been certified?

Answer: Possible reasons why PR&Cs have not been certified are: insufficient funds; missing technical approval (IM); missing APPMS interface (LM); training officer has not approved a SF 1556 (training PR&C only).

To check status of your PR&C follow these steps: 3 Fin Mgt, 5 Fin Mgt, 4 Requests for Goods and Services, 8 View PRs, 3 View Purchase Request Status, Choose type of PR&C, i.e., contractual, training, in-house, etc., F2, enter PR&C number, F3

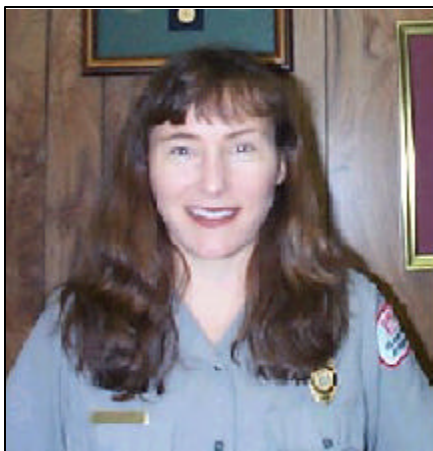
This screen will show you dates and approval signatures.

REMINDER: F&A CERTIFIES ONLY. WE ARE NOT APPROVING OFFICIALS.



Lewis New Project Manager

Andrea Lewis, Rend Lake's Assistant Project Manager, has been promoted to Project Manager of Lake Shelbyville. After graduating from Southwest Texas State University in 1988 with a Bachelors degree in Wildlife Biology, Andrea started her career with the Corps in the Operations Branch of the St. Louis District Office. She transferred to Carlyle Lake in 1989 as the lead ranger for the Environmental Stewardship program at Carlyle Lake and while there, also served stints as the lead ranger for the Recreation and Interpretation programs. In 1994, she was selected as the Assistant Manager for Rend Lake and became the District's first female Assistant Project Manager.



During Andrea's tenure at Rend Lake, she participated in a nine month developmental assignment in USACE Programs and Project Management Branch as the Senior Area Manager for the Southwestern Division, served as the Chairman for the Mississippi Valley River Division Emerging Leaders Committee and is active in the St. Louis District Emerging Leaders program.

Under her leadership and avid pursuit of funding, she has made significant improvements to the facilities at Rend Lake. The campground at Gun Creek has gone from a Class C campground to a Class B and is on its way to being a Class A campground. Upgrading campsites to full water/sewer hook-ups in the North and South Sandusky Campgrounds, and cabin improvements in the Dale Miller Youth Area have resulted in an increase in visitor use, revenue collected and customer satisfaction in these recreation areas.

Other projects, such as the replacement for the North Sandusky Shower Building, conversion of the Visitor Center Comfort Station to waterborne, campsite electrical upgrades, and infrastructure improvements have resulted in positive customer feedback. Andrea was instrumental in the initiation of the Rend Lake Bike Trail System, which is a 33 mile trail to be constructed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Rend Lake College, Rend Lake Conservancy District and the Corps, and has been active in mitigation efforts for coal mine subsidence at Rend Lake.

She will be missed at Rend Lake, but will be an asset to Lake Shelbyville. Good luck!

Quote of the month

He who knows others is learned; he who knows himself is wise.

Lao Tzu

Thompson Bend (continued)

of the river. A new channel, cut across the neck of the peninsula, could not support even the smallest of tows, and the existing channel would be too shallow for navigation most of the time. The velocities would increase many-fold, due to the slope upstream and downstream of this reach of river, as the mighty Mississippi attempted to regain an equilibrium state.

In the past, stone, amounting to millions of dollars, has been placed in an attempt to stabilize this dynamic reach of river. Because of the criticality and uniqueness of the situation, a solution to this potentially serious problem required a natural river engineering intuition, in-depth experience in hydraulics technology, and a thorough understanding of the river and all aspects and impacts of changes to its inclinations. Crucial to establishment of a good working partnership with the local landowners and interest groups was the ability to communicate with and thoroughly understand the needs and concerns of the farmers, landowners, and political interests who reside at or near the bend, and whose livelihood depends on raising productive crops, and the river's ability to transport these crops. With resources scarce, the District could ill afford to dedicate a significant number of engineers to meet the demands of this project. Approximately fourteen years ago, St. Louis District engineering managers determined that Hydraulic Engineer, Jerry Rapp was capable of filling all the shoes. In addition to an already heavy project load, Jerry was assigned the very difficult task of evaluation the situation and developing a solution to the Dry Bayou-Thompson Bend erosion problem.



Coming Lake Events

Carlyle Lake

June 4-Sept. 3 - Arts & Ecology Series
June 10 - Recreation Safety Festival
July 1 - Fireworks Spectacular
July 15 - Kaskaskia Duck Race
Oct. 20-21 - Haunted Trail
Nov. 5 - IDNR Youth Pheasant Hunt
Dec. 1 - Christmastown USA & Lighting of the Visitor Center

Lake Shelbyville

April 22 - Earth Day
June 3 - Kids Fishing Tournament
June 6 - National Trails Day Hike
June 17 - Craft Show
June 24 - Aqua Fest
June 30 - Dog-O-Rama
July 1 - Fireworks Extravaganza
Aug. 5 - Lithia Springs Chautauqua Living History Tour
Oct. 7-8 - Fall Colors Hike
Oct 28 - Lithia Springs Trail of Terror
TBA - Vitorian Splendor Light Festival

Rend Lake

May 4-5 - Rend Lake Earth Day
July 1-2 - Taste of Freedom Festival
July 2 - Fireworks display
Aug. 5 - Rend Lake Beach Blast
Sept. 23 - Rend Lake Cleanup

Wappapello Lake

April 11-12 - Earth Day 2000
April 15-16 - 22nd Annual Old Greenville Black Powder
Rendezvous
May 5-6-7 - Intertribal Living Indian Village
May 20-21 - 11th Annual Silver Bullet National Drag Boat Race
June 3 - Poplar Bluff Rod & Kustom Car Show
June 11 - 10th Annual Disabled Persons Fishing Day
July 1-2 - Wet N' Wild Waterfest 2000
Sept. 16-17 - 9th Annual Old Greenville Days
Nov. 25 - Dec. 25 - 8th Annual Festival of Light Christmas Auto Tour

Mark Twain Lake

April 15 - Earth Day Activities
June 3 - National Trails Day
June 10 - Kids Fishing Day
June 10-11 - Primitive Artifacts Weekend
June 30-July 2 - Mark Twain Lake Rodeo
July 8 - Mark Twain Lake Waterfest
Aug. 12-13 - 15th Annual Salt River Folklife Festival
Sept. 2-3 - North American Bullriding Association World Championship Finals
Sept. 22 - Environmental Education Fair
Oct. 7-8 - Missouri Mule Days
TBA - An Adventure in Astronomy

Thompson Bend (continued)

It was evident that if an efficient solution were not soon developed, a navigation crisis, potentially catastrophic to navigation, agricultural, and flood control concerns, could occur. Southbound traffic would come to a halt at the beginning of the bend and northbound traffic from New Orleans could not progress north of Cairo, Ill. This midpoint 17-mile reach, if destroyed, would cause a break in the continuous 2300-mile

navigation channel. Navigation on the Mighty Mississippi, the inland waterway system's busiest highway, would become difficult and sometimes nearly impossible for transporting a variety of products from the northern USA to the European market. Channel development would be an extremely time consuming and very costly effort. The magnitude of the scour was such that it was also threatening the integrity of the mainline, Commerce to Birds Point Federal Levee, which protects thousands of square miles of property and 300,000 people.

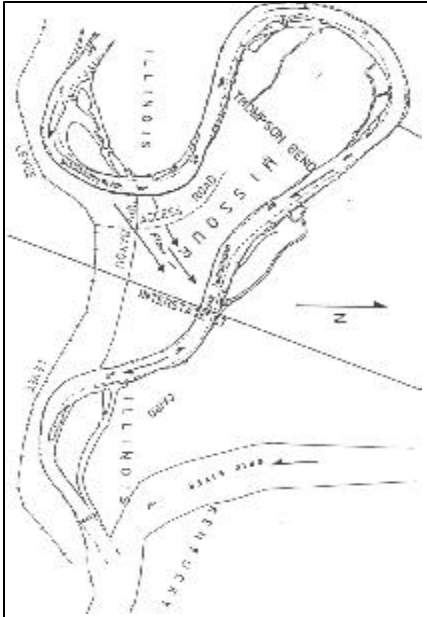
Jerry's mission was to develop a non-structural, environmentally beneficial solution to stop the erosion and repair the damage. Technology to resolve this kind of problem did not exist. Jerry rolled up his sleeves and began a 14-year period of trial and error and innumerable experiments. During this time, the Great Flood of 1993 occurred, in addition to the major flood of 1995, plus many other high water events of varying duration, which caused many setbacks, but also provided valuable opportunities to collect data and evaluate the work. Jerry was assisted by a highly compe-

(Continued on page 10)



Thompson Bend (continued)

tent support team, with significant contributions by Sharon Wolf, Real Estate Division, and Dan Erickson, Riverlands Project Office. Many years of hard work resulted in the



successful creation of the tree-screen/riparian corridor concept, which consists of a buffer strip of trees planted between the riverbank and the floodplain. This project is now known as the Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor Project. This methodology at this magnitude is a revolutionary and unprecedented blending of various sciences and technologies in an environmentally sensitive and friendly, cost effective and mission essential manner. The project includes cottonwood clones and other hardwoods specifically bred for their fast growth and water resistant attributes, and strategic placement of various forms of other types of vegetation. The trees will be selectively harvested, in agreement with an innovative arrangement with the landowners and local levee board, so they do

not shade out and prevent undergrowth. (A major side benefit of this part of the process is that it also provides timber as a cash crop for the landowners). Consistent and continuing application of this technology, including ongoing tree planting, has maintained the river in its natural, original channel, and navigation has been sustained around Thompson Bend.

At a tree-planting ceremony on the SEMO campus, U.S. Senator Kit Bond publicly praised the unprecedented cooperative effort between the Landowners Association and the Corps over the 14-year period. He cited the achievements as making possible the also unprecedented Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor Project.

This erosion control method has been so successful that Jerry's technical expertise has become widely recognized in the development of various vegetative solutions for a wide range of overbank and bankline erosion problems. His research and design of innovative and environmentally beneficial designs have earned him "ex-

pert" status throughout MVD, with other elements of the Corps, and a number of environmental agencies and interests, including those in foreign countries. These designs are unprecedented, have no established guidelines, and are based solely on Jerry's expertise and innovative experimentation. This work is considered by MVD to be a prototype demonstration for the entire Corps and is changing the way the Corps deals with severe erosion problems along the nation's waterways, while providing benefit to the environment. Jerry's technical paper, "Preventing a Cut-Off of a Mississippi River Bendway with Tree Screens" was a finalist in the Permanent International Association of Navigation Congress (PIANC) competition, and was published in 1989. Work is ongoing and more tree screens are being established.

In a letter to the St. Louis District Engineer in November 1998, Lester Goodin, President, Buffalo Island/Thompson Bend Soil Conservation Association and Member, Levee District #3 stated, "The approach had



Col. Morrow makes a point while Lester Goodin, Jerry Rapp, Bill Levins and Dave Brewer, President, Levee and Drainage District #3 look on.



Retiree Review

By the Retiree Correspondent

The retirees met on March 16th and, to some extent, they celebrated St. Patrick's Day a little early. There was a "goodly" gathering, with some ole timers, some periodics, and a newcomer. Unfortunately, the Salad Bowl didn't have the traditional corn beef and cabbage on the menu, but the retirees made do.

Charlie Denzel said that John Jansen is feeling much better. In fact, last week John and Warren Hartke took a trip to Locks and Dams 24 and 25 and met the staff there. I'm sure there were some real "war stories" told then. (Considering how long those two have been retired, I wonder if anyone up there remembered them.)

Lew Scheuermann reported that he has talked to the Huizengas recently and that Elmer is a little under the weather. Lew also said that no one has heard from the Bakers. (Jim is probably so busy with the various professional golf tours in his area that he doesn't have time to call either Lew or Elmer.) Lew also mentioned that the Spring Golf Tournament is scheduled for Quail Creek, in South County, on April 14th. They are hoping for a good turnout. The league play starts the following Tuesday, April 18th. Anyone interested in playing should call the League Secretary, Leonard Hopkins at 314-331-8348.

Elsie Kalafatich said she recently heard that Edna Jacobs had passed away. She was a secretary to the

Chief of the Engineering Division many years ago. Our condolences to the Jacobs family.

Ron Bockhorst said that Al Bienkowski had recently passed away. Al was a draftsman in the Engineering Division. Our condolences to the Bienkowski family.

Gordon Davis ventured in from the wilds of St. Charles County. He brought along a newly retired - Emmett Hahn. Gordon and Emmett had some interesting documents and stories from when they were working. (WOW, they actually said that they worked.) Some of the stories were about various antics that occurred during flood fighting and levee inspections. The stories were a hit with those in attendance.

Charlie Denzel was one of the story tellers, and he also provided a thought provoking puzzle. Since no one could come up with the solution, he displayed his talent and showed them how it worked. Les Arms and Bob Lutz were also story tellers.

The senior retiree was Bob Maxwell, who had to leave early because of a previous engagement.

The April Luncheon is scheduled for April 20th, just before Easter. Lets mark the calendars for that date at the Salad Bowl at about 11 a.m. Hope to see many of you there.

Thompson Bend (cont.)

never been attempted before, and it worked! It was recognized with State Conservation Awards and nationally.... Now, with the Thompson Bend Riparian Corridor Project, our project is logically and vastly extended. The Corps unfortunately seldom receives credit for such...hands-on management and knowledge as Jerry's. The concept is structurally sound, environmentally proactive, and economically viable. And it is on the move. Thank you and all your staff. We have a truly exceptional working relationship to move into the future".

Without a solution to this previously unsolvable erosion problem, the economic impact on navigation throughout the Mississippi Valley would have eventually become significant. Lester Goodin said during the DE's visit to Th-

ompson Bend, "For many years we fought the river, then Jerry Rapp was assigned to help us." Of this living "fix" to a resistant problem, Col Morrow said, "This is a long term solution that will be here long after you and I are gone". The Mississippi has been around for a long time and will be around for a longer time than any of us can imagine. It is projects like this that are essential to continue the Corps mission of maintaining a safe and dependable navigation channel, while working with the environment in such a way that everyone benefits. As a great River Engineer once said, "It is a very big river, and if we all work together in developing viable solutions, everyone can benefit."

Sharing knowledge and conveying the Corps message during Engineers Week

By Terrie Hatfield with Information Contributed by Travis Tutka

National Engineers Week, celebrated February 20-26, was a golden opportunity to inform the public of how engineers contribute to the quality of all our lives. St. Louis District employees participated in several activities to celebrate the evolution of the science of engineering and spread the Corps message.

Engineers and support personnel staffed a booth at the St. Louis Science Center which featured an interactive bridge building demo and a working model of a lock and dam. Two to three personnel staffed the booth at all times throughout the five-day event, including a weekend during which a large number of students gained hands-on knowledge. Cathy Zajchowski led the effort, with Lattissua Tyler, Vanester Duff, Randy Curtis, Dan Bamert, Erin Connett, Jaynie Doerr, Lloyd M. Coakley, Phil Manhart, and Milan Hornak working the booth.

Travis Tutka (Dam safety) and Marc Kodack (Archaeology) presented a joint lecture at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville and Washington University in St. Louis. The joint lecture was meant to highlight the diversity/range of missions that makes the Corps unique to other companies and agencies.

Ray Burrows (structural engineer) visited some local schools with an interactive bridge building demo, but spent most of his time discussing engineering as a profession. Ray visited Lexington Elementary School, Stevens Middle School, Gundlach Elementary School, Vashon High School, Hempstead Elementary School, and Beaumont High School. Feedback from the students and administra-

tors indicate that Ray made a very strong impression on the young students. Their letters reflected their belief in and acceptance of Ray's basic recipe for achievement, that is, "You can be anything you want to be-never give up-persistence and perseverance plus study equal success". (Editor's Note: The letters from the students are priceless. Ask Ray to share them with you. Possibly the satisfaction gained from the students' reaction will inspire other scientists and engineers to spread the message to eager young minds).

Washington University students toured Melvin Price Locks and Dam. Riverlands' Julie Ziino conducted the tour, with additional technical information provided by structural/instrumentation engineer Ken Koller.

Many St. Louis District Engineers attended the St. Louis Downtown Rotary Club luncheon where Major General Flowers, commander of Fort Leonard Wood, spoke in honor of Engineers Week. Employees also attended an Engineer Club luncheon where a motivational talk was given by former St. Louis Biliken basketball coach, Charley Spoonhour. Approximately seven engineering related societies shared the expenses of this event.

All who participated - speakers, exhibitors, presenters, and those who gained knowledge from their experience - enjoyed the activities. The engineering profession is something to be celebrated and shared. We are proud of our employees and hope that, although National Engineers Week is over, the many talented engineers and scientists employed by this District continue to seek ways to extend the celebration and impart their knowledge to future generations.

District Picnic

This year's District Picnic will be held at Forest Park on Tuesday, June 6th. The CAC is renting the 1904 World's Fair Pavilion. The Pavilion is in the back of the Zoo, across from the 1904 World's Fair Bird Cage. The Zoo is open until 8 p.m. on Tuesdays.

Lunch will be catered by K.C. Masterpiece. Tickets for the lunch will go on sale in mid-May. If you have any questions, please call Dianna Bartels at 314-331-8190, Cathy Fox at 314-331-8444, or check the CAC out on the District website.

Hope to see you there.